

Message Text

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11

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

OMB-01 /095 W

----- 129915

R 011405Z DEC 76

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2099

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MTN GENEVA 9569

ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: PROPOSED BILATERAL DISCUSSION OF COLOMBIAN
CONSULAR FORMALITIES

REF: (A) MTN GENEVA 8551; (B) BUENOS AIRES 5755

1. AT THE OCTOBER MEETING OF NTM CUSTOMS MATTERS SUB-
GROUP (REF A) THE US PROPOSED A NOTIFICATION/CONSULTA-
TION PROCEDURE ON, INTER ALIA, CONSULAR FORMALITIES AND
FEES. US DEL CITED EXAMPLES OBTAINED FROM PRIVATE SEC-
TOR ADVISORS OF DIFFICULTIES IN TRADE CAUSED BY THESE
MEASURES MAINTAINED BY CERTAIN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES,
WITHOUT GIVING THE NAMES OF COUNTRIES. US DEL ARGUED
THAT MORE SUBSTANTIVE AND FRANK DISCUSSION ON THESE
MEASURES COULD TAKE PLACE IN BILATERAL SESSIONS. AL-
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THOUGH STRONG ARGENTINA OBJECTIONS BLOCKED ATOPTION

OF US PROPOSAL, THE SUBGROUP'S CHAIRMAN SUMMING UP (MTN/NTM/23) RECORDS THAT: "SOME DELEGATIONS INDICATED THEIR INTENTION, PENDING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSAL, TO SEEK BILATERAL OR PLURILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON SPECIFIC PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN THE TRADE WITH CERTAIN COUNTRIES, AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THEIR REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS WOULD RECEIVE A POSITIVE RESPONSE."

2. ONE EXAMPLE US DEL EMPLOYED WAS WITH RESPECT TO COLOMBIAN CONSULAR FORMALITIES. COLOMBIANS HAVE GIVEN SUPPORT TO ARGENTINA SAYING TIME IS "PREMATURE" TO HAVE CONSULTATIONS ON THESE MEASURES (REF A). DURING AMB. YEUTTER'S BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS IN BOGOTA LAST AUGUST, COLOMBIANS INSISTED THAT THEIR CONSULAR FORMALITIES DID NOT IMPEDE TRADE, AND WERE ROUTINELY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY GRANTED BY COLOMBIAN CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVES ABROAD. THE COLOMBIANS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN LEARNING OF ANY SPECIFIC HARDSHIPS ENCOUNTERED BY US EXPORTERS (IMPLYING THEY MIGHT SEEK TO CORRECT ANY UNDUE DELAYS) AND US DEL AGREED TO BRING TO GOC ATTENTION ANY PRIVATE SECTOR COMPLAINT OVER DELAYS CAUSED BY CONSULAR MEASURES (REF B).

3. US MTN DEL PROPOSES THAT WE PROVIDE COLOMBIAN REP WITH SUBSTANCE OF PRIVATE SECTOR ADVICE ON COLOMBIAN CONSULAR FORMALITIES. SUCH ACTION MAY ENTICE COLOMBIA TO ENGAGE IN BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS AND WOULD FURTHER US OBJECTIVE OF LIBERALIZATION OF CONSULAR FORMALITIES AND FEES. TEXT OF PRESENTATION WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: COLOMBIA REQUIRES SPECIAL CONSULAR INVOICES, AVAILABLE IN QUADRUPLICATE FOR \$10 A SET, TO BE FILLED OUT, ARRANGED IN A SPECIFIED SEQUENCE WITH THE COMMERCIAL INVOICE, IMPORT LICENSE AND AIRWAY BILL, AND RETURNED TO THE CONSULATE WITH A CHECK FOR THE CONSULAR FEE. THIS PROCESS TAKES ABOUT ONE WEEK. THE CONSULAR INVOICE IS NOT CONSIDERED VALID IF IT CONTAINS ANY ERRORS, ERASURES, STRIKEOVERS, OR IF IT IS NOT ARRANGED IN SPECIFIED SEQUENCE. IN SUCH CASES A NEW CONSULAR INVOICE MUST BE FILLED OUT. THIS PROCESS CAN DELAY DELIVERY OF GOODS TO THE CUSTOMERS SEVERAL WEEKS AND MAY RESULT IN LOSS OF FUTURE SALES TO CUSTOMERS IN THIS COUNTRY. END QUOTE.

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4. ACTION REQUESTED: UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO CONTRARY, US DEL WILL SEND PRESENTATION IN PARA. 3 BY LETTER TO COLOMBIAN REP WITH REQUEST TO HOLD BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH A VIEW TO LIBERALIZING CONSULAR FORMALITIES AND FEES. WALKER

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Disposition Authority: saccheem
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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